

## James Baldwin: My Dungeon Shook: A Letter to my Nephew

*In 1962, the Progressive Magazine published a letter James Baldwin wrote to his nephew. The letter is excerpted from his novel, [The Fire Next Time](#), published in 1963. In this letter Baldwin shared his thoughts for his nephew's future in a nation with a history of racism.*

*Throughout the month of February, the full letter as well as reflections and other readings or videos will be on the church's website. [CLICK HERE](#) to access those materials. Our hope is that you will hear the words and the sentiment expressed in this letter and ask yourself why Baldwin felt he needed to write this letter and what we can do to make this kind of letter unnecessary.*

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### Week Three Reflections

Baldwin became an ex-patriot, moving to Switzerland in 1953 to finish his first novel. He said that living abroad gave him a different perspective and “solitary freedom to pursue his craft.” What do you think he meant by that? What freedom did he have outside of the US that he didn't have within it.

Read this piece from the PBS [American Masters Series](#). Consider what Baldwin's life and message means to you, and how it will influence you?